

REMARKS

The objections to the drawings and the specification have been addressed by appropriate amendments to the specification. Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under §102(e) on the basis of Dutta (U.S. Patent 6,480,837). Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Applicant traverses this rejection because Dutta does not disclose (or suggest) an information retrieval system in which a predetermined accumulation range is a number of links linked one after another to be received, as in the present invention.

Dutta describes a system for ordering electronic files subject to searching, using a popularity weight. However, the "popularity weight" used in Dutta is the frequency of selection of a particular URL (col. 2, lines 58-61). The reference does not accumulate information wherein a predetermined accumulation range is a number of links linked one after another to be retrieved, as in the present invention.

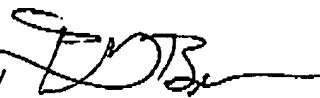
For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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